

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3551

ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003

DECLINE IN FOOD GRAIN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government are aware that agriculture production of the country has declined from 18.3% to 13.9% during the 2002-2003 as compared to previous year;
- (b) If so, the details in this regard alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) Whether the Government would conduct a study to find out the reasons;
- (d) Whether there will be any crisis of foodgrains in this year due to decline in foodgrains; and
- (e) If so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure increase in agriculture production and also to provide other facilities to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): According to the estimates released by C.S.O, the growth rate of Agriculture Sector including Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Fishing declined from 5.7 per cent in 2001-02 to (-)3.1 per cent in 2002-03. According to the production estimates released in February, 2003, the foodgrains production has declined to 183.17 Million Tonnes in 2002-03 from 212.02 Million Tonnes in 2001-02, registering a decline in the growth rate to (-)13.6 per cent in 2002-03 compared to an increase of 6.3 per cent in 2001-02.

(c): There is no proposal to conduct a special study to find out the reasons for the decline. However, the Crop Weather Watch Group in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, consisting of experts from the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources, Indian Meteorological Department etc. meet every week to continuously monitor the crop prospects. The estimated decline in agricultural production in 2002-03 is due to severe drought which affected several States in the country.

(d): In view of availability of adequate stock of foodgrains well above the buffer stock norms, there will not be any crisis due to decline in foodgrains production.

(e): In order to increase agricultural production, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme, Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan. To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes, 'Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Projects/ Flood Prone Rivers' and 'Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas'. Besides, the Regionally Differentiated Strategy adopted during the Ninth plan would be continued during the Tenth plan. As a new initiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' has been launched in March, 2002 for the year 2001-02 and the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/surface water and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc.